



## FINANCIAL AID DEVELOPMENTS

By Kim Slote, policy analyst

### NSLDS ENROLLMENT REPORTING

The USDE published a Dear Colleague Letter [GEN-14-17](#) Sep. 2, 2014: NSLDS Program-Level Enrollment Reporting. Important information regarding changes to institutional enrollment reporting requirements to NSLDS is outlined in this DCL. One change is that, no later than the first NSLDS enrollment reporting submitted by an institution on or after Oct. 1, 2014, institutions must report students' enrollment at the academic program level as well as the institution or campus level. Detailed information about the NSLDS enrollment reporting requirements can be found in the [NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Guide](#) on [IFAP](#). A couple of changes to the requirements were made after the webinar training sessions presented by the USDE in July 2014. Several examples are given in the DCL related to students who are enrolled in more than one academic program.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Sep. 26, 2014: Reminder of Program-Level Enrollment Reporting Requirement. Important reminders are provided in this announcement, along with links to pertinent Dear Colleague Letters, Webinars and NSLDS Enrollment Reporting Resources.

### TRAINING

Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-14-22](#) was published by the USDE Sep. 2, 2014: Webinar Recording – Experimental Sites Initiative (ESI) Experiments. A webinar recording providing details about the four new experiments recently published in the [July 31, 2014](#) Federal Register notice is available. The training can be viewed, including presentation slides and transcript, at the following link: <https://experimentalsites.ed.gov/exp/training.html>. Updates to questions and answers were added to the [Experimental Sites Website](#).

Dear Colleague Letter [ANN-14-23](#) was published Sep. 29, 2014: Online Training Module – Default Prevention and Management. An updated version of Federal Student Aid's online training module on the cohort default rate process and default management is now available. Information is provided in the DCL on additional lessons available and instructions for accessing the training at <http://fsatraining.info>.

### REFERENCE GUIDES

On Sep. 2, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): 2015-2016 Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Formula Guide. The [2015-2016 EFC](#)



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[Formula Guide](#) has been posted to the Information for Financial Professionals website. The worksheets and tables used in calculating an estimated EFC for students are included in this guide.

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Sep. 16, 2014: Availability of MyStudentData Download Guide for 2015-2016 FAFSA on the Web. This guide is provided as an attachment to the announcement and is designed to assist software vendors with designing new tools for students to maximize the usefulness of the data. Students will be able to download the updated version of MyStudentData Download beginning Jan. 1, 2015.

### FAFSA

A [Federal Register](#) notice was published by the USDE Sep. 3, 2014: Correction, 2015-2016 FAFSA Comment Request. This notice corrects an error in the Docket ID number published in the [Aug. 27, 2014](#) Federal Register requesting comments on the 2015-2016 FAFSA. The Docket ID number should read ED-2014-ICCD-0126.

### NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

The USDE published a [Federal Register](#) notice Sep. 3, 2014: Establishment of negotiated rulemaking committees; and

notice of public hearings. The negotiated rulemaking committee convened will develop proposed regulations to allow more student borrowers of Federal Direct Loans to use the “Pay as You Earn Repayment Plan”, as directed by the [Presidential Memorandum](#) issued on June 9, 2014. The public hearings will be held Oct. 23, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Nov. 4, 2014, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Information on the locations and how to register to speak at the hearings is provided in the notice. For those interested parties unable to attend the public hearings, instructions are include for submitting written comments, which are due on or before Nov. 4, 2014.

### RESOURCES

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Sep. 3, 2014: Information About Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory Updates. Schools were advised that an email was sent to states reminding them to submit their updated lists of low-income schools and education service agencies to be included in the Directory of Designated Low-Income Schools for Teacher Cancellation Benefits. The directory is available at <https://www.tcli.ed.gov> and is also known as the Teacher Cancellation Low-Income Directory or TCLI Directory. Eligibility of teachers for loan cancellation with the



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Perkins Loan Program and loan forgiveness with the FFEL Program and Direct Loan Program is determined using the list of schools and educational service agencies that serve low-income families in the TCLI Directory. Schools may use the TCLI Directory when counseling students who are planning to become teachers. A copy of the email to the states is attached to this announcement.

- Requesting Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for 2013-2014 Award Year

Two other Electronic Announcements were published by the USDE Sep. 5, 2014, outlining processing requirements and deadlines for the 2013-2014 Award Year and the end of Fiscal Year 2014. Links to these announcements are listed.

### PROCESSING DEADLINES

On Sep. 5, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant 2013-2014 Award Year Processing Deadline. Tuesday, Sep. 30, 2014, is the final deadline for electronically transmitting Pell Grant and Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant records for the 2013-2014 Award Year to the COD System. More detailed information is included in the announcement. Additionally, an attachment to the announcement provides the following guidance:

- Tools to Assist Schools with Reconciliation Prior to Sep. 30, 2014 (three subsections)
- Acceptance and Rejection of 2013-2014 Award Year Data After September 30, 2014

- [Additional TEACH Grant Closeout Information for 2013-2014 Award Year](#)
- [End of Federal Fiscal Year 2014 – Impact on Funds Availability for Pell Grant, Campus-Based, Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, TEACH Grant and Direct Loan Programs](#) (G5 and COD System)

### PROGRAM INTEGRITY Q&A

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Sep. 8, 2014: Program Integrity Questions and Answers (Q&A) Website Update. The verification portion of the Web site was recently updated. To view updates go to the [Program Integrity Website](#) and look for bolded revised dates on the questions and answers under applicable topics that have been modified.



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### COHORT DEFAULT RATES

In September there were several Electronic Announcements from the USDE regarding cohort default rates. The announcements are listed below with links to important information, including dates to begin appeals and instructions for submitting requests for adjustments.

- [FY 2011 3-Year Official Cohort Default Rates Distributed Sep. 22, 2014](#)
- [Adjustment of Calculation of Official Three Year Cohort Default Rates for Institutions Subject to Potential Loss of Eligibility \(Sep. 23, 2014\)](#)
- [Erroneous Data Appeal - Incorrect Borrower Enrollment \(Sep. 23, 2014\)](#)
- [National Default Rate Briefing for FY 2011 3-Year Rates \(Sep. 24, 2014\)](#)

### LOAN SERVICING

On Sep. 11, 2014, the USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#): Loan Servicing Information - Customer Service Performance Results and Allocation Information. The USDE has been assigning federally-owned loans to a team of federal loan servicers since September 2009. Annual assignments are based on servicer

performance in areas of customer satisfaction and default prevention. Servicer performance in customer satisfaction was measured by the Department through independently administered customer satisfaction surveys conducted through June 2014. Default prevention was assessed through analysis of each servicer's portfolio. There are four attachments to the announcement that provide the following information.

- [Explanation of Allocation and Customer Service Performance Measure Methodology](#)
- [Quarterly Customer Service Performance Results for Not-For-Profit \(NFP\) Members of the Federal Loan Servicing Team – Quarter Ending June 30, 2014](#)
- [Quarterly Customer Service Performance Results for FedLoan Servicing \(PHEAA\), Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc., Nelnet, and Sallie Mae – Quarter Ending June 30, 2014](#)
- [Final Calculation for 2014-2015 Allocation Period for FedLoan Servicing \(PHEAA\), Great Lakes Educational Loan Services, Inc., Nelnet, and Sallie Mae](#)
- [Final Calculation for the 2014-2015 Allocation Period for Not-For-Profit](#)



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### (NFP) Members of the Federal Loan Servicing Team

#### **GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT**

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was published by the USDE Sep. 11, 2014: Gainful Employment Electronic Announcement #50 – Release of the Updated Disclosure Template for Gainful Employment (GE) Programs. No later than Jan. 31, 2015, institutions must update the disclosures of each of their GE programs to reflect the 2013-2014 award year using the updated Disclosure Template. The Disclosure Template must be used by institutions that offer GE programs to meet their disclosure responsibilities under 34 CFR 668.6(b). The updated GE Disclosure Template, located at <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hea/rulemaking/2009/negreg-summerfall.html>,

- Provides the institution name on the output screens;
- Includes an option for “graduate certificate” as a credential level;
- Has improved printing capability;
- Allows institutions with programs of different lengths, but the same CIP code and credential level, to use the bulk upload tool;
- Contains an updated list of standard occupational classification (SOC)

codes that institutions may identify as associated with the program;

- Contains improved skip logic for programs with fewer than 10 program completers;
- Ensures that the output document will be accessible to individuals with disabilities (i.e., compliant with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act); and
- Provides optional context boxes for the institution to provide additional explanations and clarifications.

#### **COMMON SERVICES FOR BORROWERS SYSTEM**

A [Federal Register](#) notice was published by the USDE Sep. 12, 2014: System of Records Notice for Common Services for Borrowers (CSB) system. The USDE is planning to revise the system of records called “Common Services for Borrowers” system (18-11-16), originally published in the Federal Register on Jan. 23, 2006. The revisions needed are as a result of amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, made by the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. Comments must be submitted on this altered or deleted



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system of records on or before Oct. 14, 2014.

### **FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM**

The USDE published an [Electronic Announcement](#) Sep. 12, 2014: Federal Perkins Loan Program Processing and Reporting Requirement Reminders. Key reminders for all schools that participate in the Perkins Loan Program, involve the use of funds, due diligence and reporting to NSLDS. Reference information is provided for the Federal Student Aid Handbook, regulations governing the Perkins Loan Program and Federal Perkins Data Provider Instructions.